

**VETERINARY TECHNICIAN***Class Definition*

Under supervision, performs keeper, laboratory, and clinical duties in the zoo hospital, and assists the veterinarian in clinical medical and surgical activities.

*Distinguishing Characteristics*

Veterinary Technician is a specialized, technical class assigned to the Zoo Division of the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department. Incumbents assist the Zoo Veterinarian in exotic animal husbandry, surgery, routine health care procedures, and in the administration of drugs. Duties include preparing animals for surgery, assisting with or performing treatments or laboratory procedures, maintaining the hospital facility and equipment, sterilizing surgical instruments, and maintaining an inventory of medical and surgical supplies. This class is distinguished from Zoo Keeper in that incumbents of the latter feed, care for, and perform maintenance work for exhibit animals but do not provide medical treatment.

*Typical Tasks*

(An incumbent may not be assigned all duties listed, nor do the examples cover all duties which may be assigned.)

Prepares animals for surgery; under direction of the veterinarian, gives injections, fluids, and drugs, collects blood, feces, urine, and culture samples, and monitors animals under anesthetic drugs.

Performs fecal parasitological exams, urinalysis, complete blood counts, gram stains, and microbiological cultures; prepares specimens for outside lab submissions.

Catches and restrains animals for treatments; assists veterinarian with treatments, routine health care procedures, surgery, radiology, and/or necropsy procedures.

Prepares feed and feeds animals in the zoo hospital; cleans and disinfects cages and pens; observes and records the animals' behavior and appetite.

Organizes, prepares, and disinfects equipment, supplies, and surgical instruments; inventories and orders hospital supplies and pharmaceuticals.

Maintains and updates daily records, lab records, quarantine records, and permanent health records for the zoo animals.

Assists with instruction of volunteers and students.

Performs related duties as required.

*Knowledge, Abilities, and Skills*

Knowledge of animal behavior and the principles of animal husbandry and zoology.

Knowledge of the nutrition, care, and handling of exotic animals.

Knowledge of laboratory equipment and techniques relating to veterinary science.

Ability to recognize symptoms and problems relating to exotic animals.

Ability to keep medical records on the animal collection.

Ability to perform laboratory, surgical, and clinical procedures.

Ability to catch and transport exotic animals.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships.

Skill in the administration of drugs by injection and orally.

Skill in the use of various drug delivery systems required by zoological medicine.

*Minimum Qualifications*

Thirty semester units from an accredited college or university in animal science, the biological sciences, chemistry, or a closely related field; and one year of experience assisting a licensed veterinarian in providing medical treatment to animals, including performing surgical procedures and medical examinations. One year of qualifying experience may be substituted for the required education.

*Necessary Special Requirements*

Possession of a valid California Driver's License at time of appointment.

Registration as an Animal Health Technician by the California Board of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine is desirable.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Human Resources

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinary Technician  
Page 3

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